

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### ***Status of All of the Claims***

Upon entry of this response, the status of the claims will be as follows:

1. Claims 2, 10, 11, 13, 14, 26-32, 38-40, 42 and 45-50 will be pending and under consideration.
2. Claims 3, 33-37 and 41 have been withdrawn.
3. Claims 1, 4-9, 12, 15-25 and 43-44 have been cancelled.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. To the extent maintained, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is certainly feasible, and well supported by the original disclosure, for a barb to both penetrate a piece of material, and while penetrating the material, to extend from the material. Such an arrangement is supported, for example, by paragraph [0033].

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 2, 10, 11, 14, 26-32, 38-40 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavcnik et al. (2009/0157169 continuing from at least 2/5/2001) "Pavcnik" in view of Lucatero et al. (2004/0087975) "Lucatero". To the extent maintained, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

There is a "missing element" to the examiner's prima facie obviousness rejection. Neither Pavcnik nor Lucatero teaches or suggests an array of penetrating elements as claimed -- i.e., having a specified width and having penetrating elements occurring generally laterally with respect to one another in the direction of this width -- that extends longitudinally proximate a first edge of a material.

Rather, as clearly seen in Figure 48 of Lucatero, each of the proximal elements (16) identified by the Examiner has two opposing side edges, and each of these side edges has a corresponding single straight row of teeth extending along it. This sort of arrangement, where there is only a single straight row of teeth extending along a side edge of an element, is precisely one of the types of penetrating element arrangements in the prior art from which our claimed configuration is meant to distinguish.

With Applicant's configuration, the claimed array, with its specified width and its penetrating elements occurring generally laterally with respect to one another in the direction of this width, is proximate one particular edge (i.e., the "first edge") of the material. This configuration is neither taught nor suggested by Pavcnik or Lucatero, and for at least this reason, withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavcnik et al. (2009/0157169 continuing from at least 2/5/2001) "Pavcnik" in view of Lucatero et al. (2004/0087975) "Lucatero" further in view of Ahn (5,843,170). To the extent maintained, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ahn does not cure any of the above-described deficiencies in the Pavcnik-Lucatero combination, and thus the stated rejection does not render claim 13 obvious. For at least this reason, withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claim 45-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavcnik et al. (2009/0157169 continuing from at least 2/5/2001) "Pavcnik" in view of Lucatero et al. (2004/0087975) "Lucatero" further in view of Dobben (4,994,077). To the extent maintained, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dobben does not cure any of the above-described deficiencies in the Pavcnik-Lucatero combination, and thus the stated rejection does not render any of claims 45-47 obvious. For at least this reason, withdrawal of these rejections is solicited.

Claim 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavcnik et al. (2009/0157169 continuing from at least 2/5/2001) "Pavcnik" in view of Lucatero et al. (2004/0087975) "Lucatero" further in view of Yang (2002/0138138). To the extent maintained, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yang does not cure any of the above-described deficiencies in the Pavcnik-Lucatero combination, and thus the stated rejection does not render any of claims 48-50 obvious. For at least this reason, withdrawal of these rejections is solicited.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to resolve any outstanding matters concerning the present application. It should be understood that

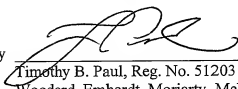
the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or to concede any basis for the rejections in the Office Action but are provided to address the rejections made in the Office Action in an expedient fashion.

**Request for Interview**

The Applicant requests an opportunity for an interview of the Examiner if the Examiner believes that any objection or rejection could be maintained against the application as amended. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to arrange any such interview necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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